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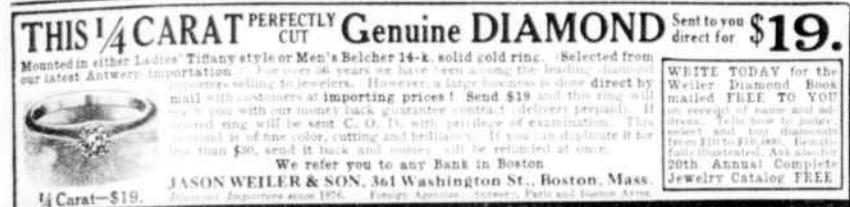
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Henderson deprecatingly: "though it might have been more decent if they had. No, things just took their course, and by and by there were terrible scenes between the families—though I must say little of it leaked out. But, while the young people wanted to marry, neither family would allow it, not even the girl's people. In spite of all, they thought they could do better by her than young Damon."

"The upshot of it was that they took her abroad, and my mother, then a young widow with a nursing child of her own, went with them. The baby was born abroad and was given to my mother to bring up, and she was to live in another parish on the other side of England. She did go—and precious lonely she was! The money the Larrabees and Damons gave her for the care of the boy hardly made up to her for being away from her own people. After two years my father went as a tripper to the seaside place where she was, and she took his fancy. The upshot of it was that back she came to the very parish of the boy's father.

"Well, it wasn't so awkward as it may sound. They had told Miss Larabee that her baby had died, and whether she believed it or not I have never known. But she married happily, a rich man who lived in the North, and her visits home were rare enough. Young Damon was not so easily disposed of; but he was married too. He bargained with them that he should get a commission to India. Somehow, he never cared for England after that early trouble. The Damon affections always went deeper than the Larabee affections.

"But the elder people, the parents and the aunts, and the sisters and brothers too, were in the neighborhood, and I don't know that it was pleasant to them to see the boy that they had done out of a name. Not that the sin of it troubled them, if it was a sin, but he had the red Damon hair—torch red it was—and the Larabee blue eyes, with the arched, finely marked black brows. He had the big Damon body and the Damon voice, and he had the red, small Larabee mouth. I assure you, Sir, to the eyes of those who knew, if he had been labeled, he could not have shown the Larabee and Damon more distinctly than he did. But the villagers were stupid enough; to them he was only another of the Henderson lot that began to swarm over the steps of my father's green-grocer shop."

THE cafe was filled with theater crowds, and Henderson paused for a moment as the chairs about him began to be occupied. Sylvester did not glance away from Henderson's face.

"Do go on!" he begged. "We've the right to sit here all night, if we like, and for my part I could listen to you till daylight."

"I thank you," said Henderson, with a prim little bow. "The young are not always so ready to listen to the elderly. My brother, as he was called, always received a certain amount of consideration from my father and mother. They never forgot that he had in him the blood of the Damons and the Larabees, even if it came somewhat irregularly. Perhaps the consideration they showed him intensified his natural traits. At any rate, he soon gave signs of an overbearing, though generous, disposition and a high, uncontrollable temper. I ought to be able to tell you that he showed aristocratic tendencies. In some ways he did; in other ways he was as common as if he had been born in an alehouse. The painful part of his personality was that it seemed to be divided against itself; the boorish part would act first, and then the gentleman part would stand off and criticize the boorish party, and my brother, as I called him, suffered intensely.

"The Damons and Larabees had sufficient conscience to see that he was sent away to a good school, when he was about eight, and scatter that he was with it only during vacations. I could never see that his schooling helped him out any. He was never very quick at his books, and his mind was just as uncouth as if he had been brought up on the village benches. Perhaps the schools were not very good, or perhaps his companions ferreted out the mystery about him and did not make him one of themselves but, whatever he was, my brother was always my idol."

HENDERSON poured himself more wine and then said briskly: "I perceive that I am lingering too long on the first part of my story. Let me say, then, that when he was sixteen somehow or other my brother discovered the secret, such as it was, of his parentage. He was a strange fellow in many ways, full of rage and pride. He hated all his kin. He harassed his two grandfathers in their homes and told them to their faces what he thought of them; and when he left the Damon house he heard his father's

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